

In the Claims:

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1 1. (currently amended) An aluminum alloy containing at least  
2 0.0001 mass % and not more than ~~[[0-03]]~~ 0.01 mass % of  
3 copper, at least 0.0005 mass % and not more than ~~[[0-2]]~~  
4 0.1 mass % of silicon, at least ~~[[0-5]]~~ 1.0 mass % and not  
5 more than ~~[[4]]~~ 3.0 mass % of manganese and at least  
6 ~~[[0-5]]~~ 0.7 mass % and not more than ~~[[3]]~~ 1.2 mass % of  
7 iron, ~~with the rest and a remainder~~ containing aluminum and  
8 unavoidable impurities, ~~and excluding zinc except for an~~  
9 ~~unavoidable amount of zinc that may be included in said~~  
10 ~~unavoidable impurities.~~

## Claim 2 (canceled)

1 3. (currently amended) The aluminum alloy according to  
2 claim 1, further containing at least one element selected  
3 from a group consisting of at least 0.01 mass % and not  
4 more than 0.5 mass % of chromium, at least 0.01 mass % and  
5 not more than 0.5 mass % of titanium and at least 0.01  
6 mass % and not more than 0.5 mass % of zirconium.

1 4. (previously presented) An aluminum alloy foil consisting of  
2 the aluminum alloy according to claim 1, and having a  
3 thickness, elongation and yield strength so selected that  
4 the relation between the yield strength YS (N/mm<sup>2</sup>) and the  
5 thickness X ( $\mu$ m) satisfies an inequality  
6  $YS > 28.7 \ln(X) - 30$  and the relation between the

7 elongation  $E_l$  (%) and the thickness  $X$  ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) satisfies an  
8 inequality  $E_l > 0.15X + 3.5$ .

1 5. (withdrawn - currently amended) A method of preparing the  
2 aluminum alloy foil according to claim 4, comprising steps  
3 of:

4 heating up an ingot of ~~[[an]]~~ said aluminum alloy to  
5 a temperature of at least  $350^\circ\text{C}$  and not more than  $580^\circ\text{C}$ ;

6 hot-rolling said ingot of said aluminum alloy at a  
7 starting temperature of at least  $350^\circ\text{C}$  and not more than  
8  $530^\circ\text{C}$  after the heating up thereby obtaining a plate  
9 material;

10 cold-rolling said plate material after the hot  
11 rolling; and

12 softening said plate material after the cold rolling.

1 6. (withdrawn) The method of preparing the aluminum alloy foil  
2 according to claim 5, further comprising

3 a step of retaining said ingot of said aluminum alloy  
4 at a temperature of at least  $350^\circ\text{C}$  and not more than  $580^\circ\text{C}$   
5 for not more than 15 hours after said step of heating up  
6 said ingot, and

7 carrying out said step of hot-rolling said ingot for  
8 obtaining said plate material after said holding step.

1 7. (withdrawn - currently amended) The method of preparing the  
2 aluminum alloy foil according to claim 5, comprising  
3 carrying out said step of hot-rolling said ingot for

4 obtaining said plate material immediately after said step  
5 of heating up said ingot.

1 8. (withdrawn) The method of preparing the aluminum alloy foil  
2 according to claim 5, wherein said step of softening said  
3 plate material includes an operation of retaining said  
4 plate material at a temperature of at least 270°C and not  
5 more than 380°C for at least one hour and not more than 20  
6 hours.

1 9. (currently amended) An aluminum alloy foil consisting of an  
2 aluminum alloy containing at least 0.0001 mass % and not  
3 more than 0.01 mass % of copper, at least 0.0005 mass % and  
4 not more than 0.1 mass % of silicon, at least 1.0 mass %  
5 and not more than 3.0 mass % of manganese and at least 0.7  
6 mass % and not more than 1.2 mass % of iron, and a  
7 remainder with the rest containing aluminum and unavoidable  
8 impurities, and excluding zinc except for an unavoidable  
9 amount of zinc that may be included in said unavoidable  
10 impurities, and having a thickness, elongation and yield  
11 strength so selected that the relation between the yield  
12 strength  $YS$  ( $N/mm^2$ ) and the thickness  $X$  ( $\mu m$ ) satisfies an  
13 inequality  $YS > 28.7 \ln(X) - 30$  and the relation between  
14 the elongation  $El$  (%) and the thickness  $X$  ( $\mu m$ ) satisfies an  
15 inequality  $El > 0.15X + 3.5$ .

1 10. (original) A container consisting of the aluminum alloy  
2 foil according to claim 9 and having a thickness of at  
3 least 50  $\mu\text{m}$  and not more than 200  $\mu\text{m}$ .

1 11. (new) The aluminum alloy according to claim 1, containing  
2 more than 1.0 mass % of said manganese.

1 12. (new) An article of manufacture,  
2 said article of manufacture consisting of the aluminum  
3 alloy according to claim 1, and  
4 said article of manufacture being an article selected  
5 from the group consisting of a container, a food wrapping  
6 foil material, a domestic article, and a decorative  
7 article.

1 13. (new) An aluminum alloy consisting of:  
2 0.0001 to 0.01 mass % of copper;  
3 0.0005 to 0.1 mass % of silicon;  
4 1.0 to 3.0 mass % of manganese;  
5 0.7 to 1.2 mass % of iron;  
6 0.0 to 0.5 mass % of each of at least one additional  
7 element selected from a group consisting of chromium,  
8 titanium and zirconium; and  
9 a remainder consisting of aluminum and unavoidable  
10 trace amounts of unavoidable impurities.

1 14. (new) The aluminum alloy according to claim 13, including  
2 at least 0.01 mass % of each of at least one said  
3 additional element selected from said group.

1 15. (new) The aluminum alloy according to claim 13, including  
2 not more than an unavoidable trace amount of each said  
3 additional element selected from said group.

1 16. (new) An aluminum alloy foil consisting of the aluminum  
2 alloy according to claim 13, and having a thickness,  
3 elongation and yield strength so selected that the relation  
4 between the yield strength YS (N/mm<sup>2</sup>) and the thickness  
5 X (μm) satisfies an inequality  $YS > 28.7 \ln(X) - 30$  and the  
6 relation between the elongation El (%) and the thickness  
7 X (μm) satisfies an inequality  $El > 0.15X + 3.5$ .

1 17. (new) The aluminum alloy according to claim 13, containing  
2 more than 1.0 mass % of said manganese.

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